

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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PRICE 1'6



The Tinker Box



1. Once upon a time, there came a soldier marching along the high road—left, right, left, right! He had his knapsack on his back and a sword by his side, for he had been to the wars and was now returning home. And on the road he met an old witch. A rather horrid creature she was. "Good evening," cackled she.

2. "What a bright sword and what a large knapsack you have, my fine fellow. I tell you what—you shall have as much money for your own as you can wish." "Thanks, old witch," said the soldier. "But how will that happen?" "Do you see yonder large tree?" said the witch, pointing to a tree close by the wayside.



3. "It is quite hollow within," she went on. "You can easily climb down into it. As soon as you get to the bottom you will find yourself in a passage. There you will see three doors with the keys in the locks. On opening the first door you will enter a room, where a dog with eyes as big as teacups guards a chest filled with copper coins. Take as much as you please."



4. "Do not be afraid of the dog," said the witch. "I will lend you my apron. Just put him on the apron and he will do you no harm. But if you like silver coins better, go into the next room, where you will find a dog with eyes as large as mill-wheels. Do not be afraid of him. You have only to set him down on my apron and you will be able to empty the silver chest with ease."



5. The soldier took the witch's apron, then tied a rope round his waist and let himself down into the hollow tree. "Just one more thing," said the witch. "If you would rather have gold instead of silver and copper, go into the third room, where you will find a dog with eyes as large as round towers. Put him on the apron and take as much gold from the chest as you like."



7. The soldier's heart was beating fast as he went quietly down the passage. He was looking for the first door and he soon found it. "The old witch was quite right," he thought. "There is indeed a key in the lock." Very gently he turned the key, so as not to make too much noise, and opened the door. Peeping into the room, the first thing he saw was a huge bone on the floor.

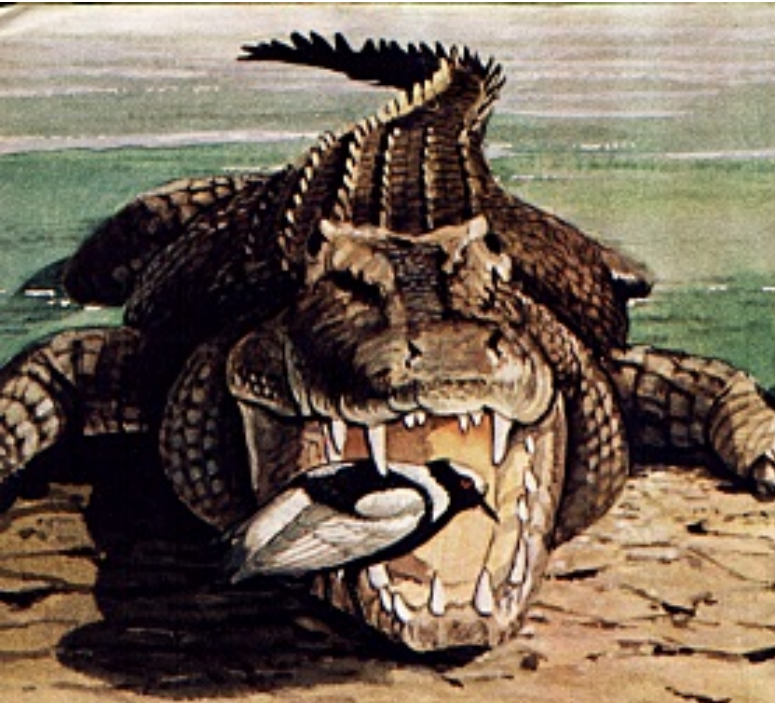
What will happen, do you think? You will find out in next week's part of this exciting story.



6. As the soldier went farther down, the last words he heard from the witch were: "Not a penny do I want. The only thing I want you to bring me is an old tinder-box which my grandmother left there by mistake the last time she was down in the tree." The soldier suddenly found himself in a wide passage, just as the strange old witch had described. It was lit by several lamps.



8. Then he heard a soft growl and saw the dog with eyes as big as teacups. It looked at the soldier, then put one of its front paws on a chest as though to protect it. "There's a good creature," the soldier said. "But don't stare at me so, or you will make your eyes weak." Hoping that the witch had spoken truthfully, he began to slip the apron out of his pocket to put the dog on it.



1. Crocodiles have their own special dentists who keep their teeth clean. They are birds called Plovers, which enter the crocodile's mouth and pick uneaten food, leeches and other insects out. The birds come to no harm inside the big mouth.



2. The Ratel, or Honey-badger, loves honey. Its constant companion is a bird called the Honey-guide. It finds a bees' nest and then leads the Ratel there. The Ratel breaks open the nest and eats the honey, while the bird eats the grubs inside.



This week our Allsorts pages tell us about all sorts of strange animal partnerships.

All Sorts of



5. The Petrel, a bird which spends its days flying over the ocean, makes its nest in the earth. In the daytime the Tuatara, a kind of big, grey lizard, often lives in the burrow, keeping it clean. It moves out at night when the Petrel returns.



6. Ants often keep herds of greenflies, as we keep cows, because they love the sweet liquid called honey-dew which they get from the greenflies. Some ants store greenfly eggs in their nest until they hatch then place the insects on plant roots.



3. As the Parrot fish swims around, parasites cling to its sides. Some other fish, called Wrasse, have big thick lips, which they use to suck the parasites off the Parrot fish, keeping it clean and at the same time getting a free meal.



4. The Cattle Egret, a bird found in Southern Eurasia and Northern Africa, often lives near cattle. It hops around, pecking up the insects disturbed by the animals' feet and often gives an alarm signal at the approach of danger.

Animal Partners



7. Clownfish live near Sea-anemones. When hungry, the Clownfish lures a bigger fish into chasing it and leads the fish to the Sea-anemone, which catches it, kills it and then shares it with the Clownfish. The Clownfish itself is not harmed.



8. The Hermit Crab has a soft body, so it finds itself an empty shell to live in. A Sea-anemone will often settle on top of the shell. In return for disguising the crab, the Sea-anemone is carried around and so is able to find plenty of food easily.



BRER RABBIT

This week's story . . . The Stone Stew.

ONE day, Brer Rabbit and all his family were feeling mighty hungry, and the fact that it was market day made them feel hungrier still.

"My, my, my! Just think about all the folks going to market to buy lots of lovely food," sighed Mrs. Brer Rabbit. "But it would be a waste of time if WE went, because we haven't any money."

Now Brer Rabbit, as you know, is one of the cleverest thinkers around those parts and it did not take him long to find himself a plan to feed the family. Off he went, carrying with him a cooking-pot filled with water, some sticks for a fire, a lump of wood with some string tied to the end of it and a large stone.

Stopping just beside the main road which led to the market, he soon had a fire going under the cooking-pot. Then he tied the stone on the string and dangled

it with great care over the pot.

Of course, it was not long before all this attracted attention. Along came Brer Fox, Brer Wolf and Brer Bear.

"Howdy, Brer Rabbit," they said.

"Howdy, folks," said Brer Rabbit.

"What are you doing with that stone on the end of a string?" asked Brer Fox.

"I'm waiting for the water to boil, and just at the right moment I'll pop the stone into the pot and cook it," answered Brer Rabbit. "I'll make a delicious stone stew."

When they heard this, Brer Fox, Brer Bear and Brer Wolf almost fell over backwards with laughing.

"Stone stew?" chuckled Brer Fox. "You can't make stew out of a stone."

"Whoever heard of such a thing?" said Brer Wolf. "When my wife comes back from the market I hope she'll be bringing something tastier for dinner than stone stew."

"Me, too," laughed Brer Bear.

Well, Brer Rabbit just smiled and sat there, dangling the stone in the boiling water, watching it very carefully as any good cook might do. And off went the other three, still laughing at Brer Rabbit's strange idea of making a stone into a tasty stew.

But Brer Rabbit just kept on smiling and sat there cooking the stone. He knew very well that Brer Fox and Brer Wolf and Brer Bear would tell everybody at the market about him. Which, of course, they did. And they laughed and laughed and laughed as they did so.

Well, after about an hour folks began to come back from the market and the first one to pass Brer Rabbit was Mrs. Brer Fox.

"Howdy, Brer Rabbit," she said. "How's the stone stew going?"

"Fine, just fine," said Brer Rabbit,

taking a sniff of the steam from the pot. "It's coming along nicely."

"I bought a few more mushrooms than I need at the market," said Mrs. Brer Fox. "I can spare you a few."

And she dropped a few mushrooms into the pot. Brer Rabbit pretended to look a bit shocked at this.

"Oh dear, I didn't want to spoil the delicate flavour," he said. "But I guess you mean well, Mrs. Brer Fox."

Next to come along the road was Mrs. Brer Bear. She stopped and then slipped in a few carrots.

"They might make the stone a little more tasty, Brer Rabbit," she said.

Brer Rabbit thanked her kindly and then waited for the next person to arrive. It was Mrs. Brer Wolf.

"How's the stone stew coming along, Brer Rabbit?" she asked.

"Pretty good," answered artful Brer Rabbit. "It's beginning to get a real good flavour. We're just crazy about stone stew in my house, you know. My little baby rabs love it."

"Are you sure it's nourishing for the little ones?" asked Mrs. Brer Wolf, shaking her head. "They need something to build them up and make them grow strong, you know."

And she took from her shopping bag a meaty bone and popped it in to the pot.

Away went Mrs. Brer Wolf before Brer Rabbit could say anything, and the next person to come along was Brer Terrapin.

"Stone stew, eh? Never heard of it," he said in his slow way. "But nobody in this world can make a stew without good vegetables in it, my friend. It so happens that I have a few cabbage leaves and some small potatoes that I bought cheap in the market. Here, you can have some."

Into the stew-pot went some cabbage leaves and potatoes and Brer Rabbit bobbed the stone up and down to stir up the mixture.

"It's wonderful what you can do with a stone, if you cook it properly," he said. "This stew is beginning to smell real nice."

Well, you can guess what happened after that. More people came that way from the market and all of them had heard Brer Fox, Brer Wolf and Brer Bear laughing about the silly idea of boiling a stone in a pot to make a stew.

Mrs. Brer Coon insisted on dropping a few turnips in and Miss Meadows could not be persuaded from adding a handful of peas and beans.

And all the time clever Brer Rabbit had not asked for a thing.

Towards dinner time he struggled home with the stew-pot and told Mrs. Brer Rabbit to set the table for dinner.

"I can set the table all right," said Mrs. Brer Rabbit, "but what do I put on it? What have you got in that pot?"

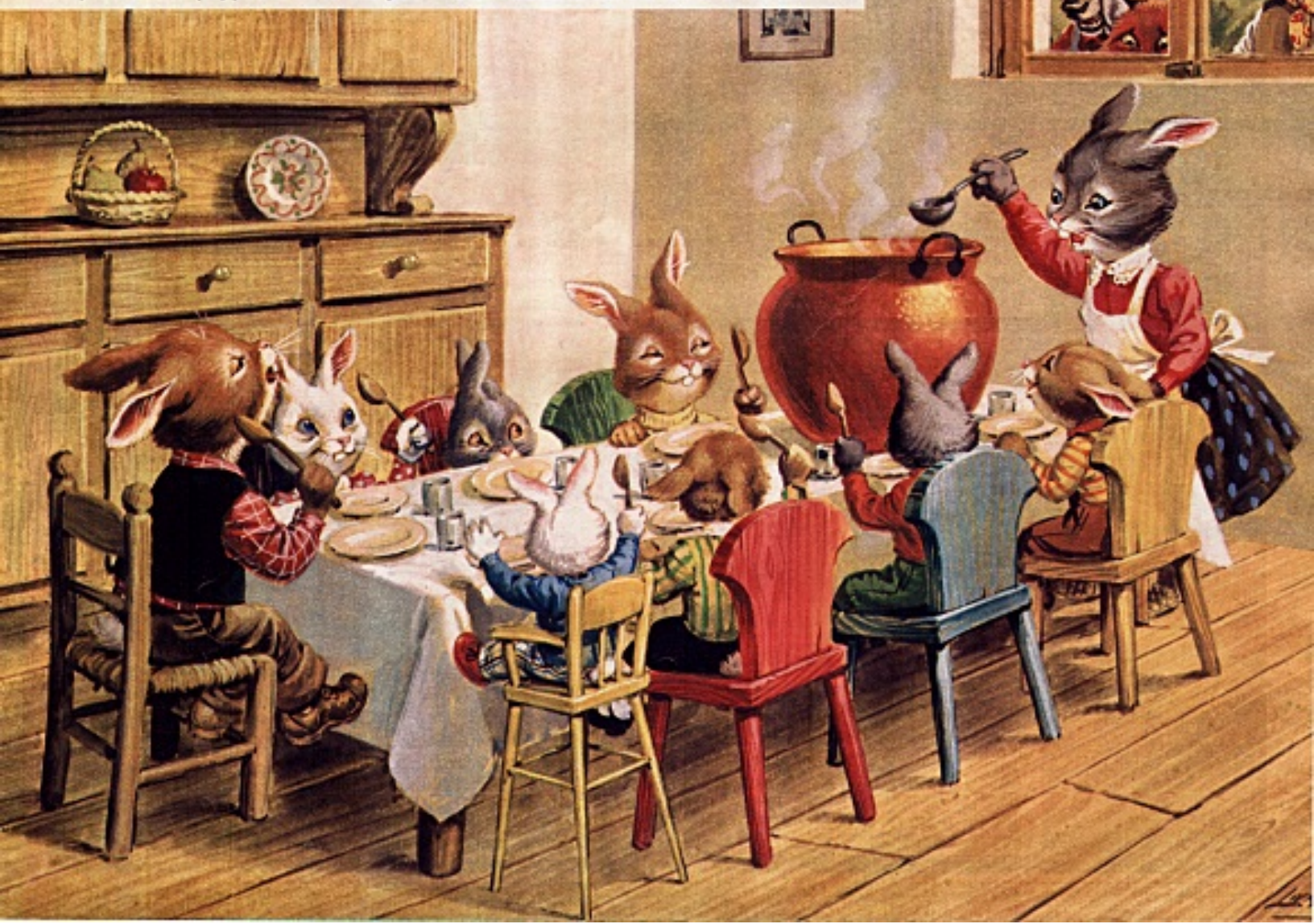
"It's my own special stone stew," he told her. "That's all I put in it." (Which, of course, was quite true. That's all he had put in it!)

"Oo — — yummy-yummy!" said the little baby rabs, and they all sat down to eat it.

It was really delicious and Brer Rabbit thought it tasted even better with Brer Fox, Brer Wolf and Brer Bear looking in through the window, fairly gnashing their teeth with annoyance, wishing they could have some.

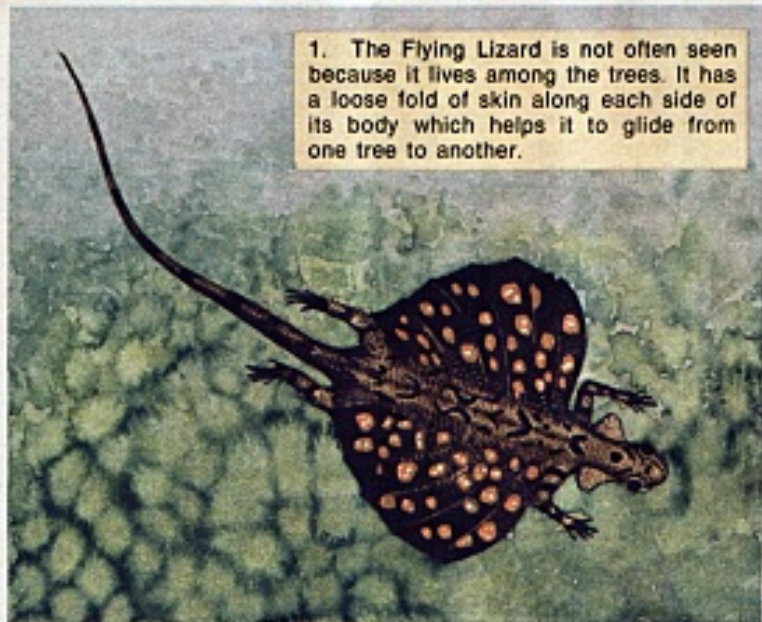
So artful Brer Rabbit fed his family on stone stew for dinner and there was enough left over for supper. Whatever will the cunning rascal think of next?

Another merry tale of Brer Rabbit in **Once Upon A Time** next week.

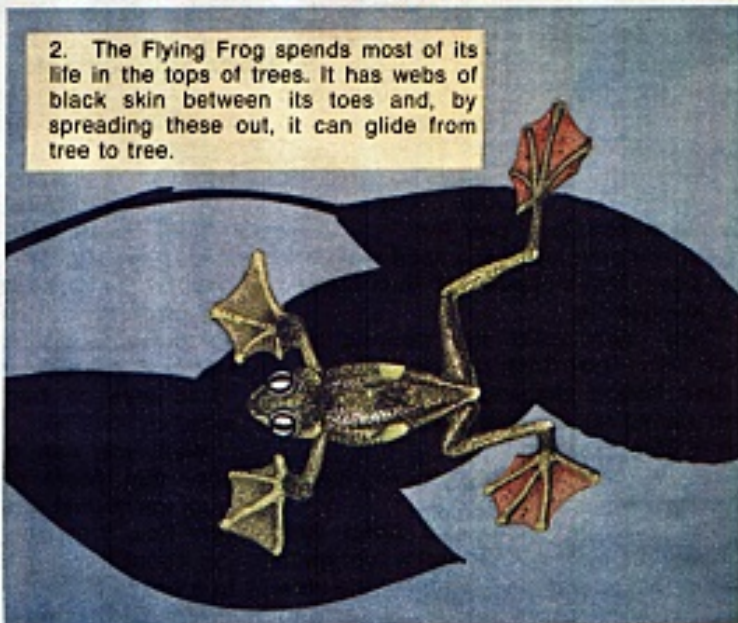


Creatures which fly and glide

1. The Flying Lizard is not often seen because it lives among the trees. It has a loose fold of skin along each side of its body which helps it to glide from one tree to another.



2. The Flying Frog spends most of its life in the tops of trees. It has webs of black skin between its toes and, by spreading these out, it can glide from tree to tree.



3. The Flying Fox, the biggest bat on earth, gets its name because it has a face like a fox. Flying Foxes love company and are often found in big groups. They fly around at night.



4. The bat is the only four-legged animal which can really fly. Its wings are webs of strong, thin skin stretching from front to back legs.




5. Like all flying animals, except bats, the Flying Squirrel can only glide. It uses the loose, furry membranes stretched between its front and back legs to support it in the air.



6. The Flying Lemur, or Colugo, can glide smoothly through the air but is almost helpless on the ground. It launches itself into the air from the top of a tree and glides to another.




RICE



Before the rice is planted, the muddy fields are ploughed, using water buffaloes.



Rice needs about six inches of water to grow in and plenty of sun. The small rice plants are planted in fields which have been flooded with water. When the plants grow, they look rather like green grass. When ripe, the rice is golden-brown. Then the fields are drained and left to dry.



The rice stems are cut with a sickle. Then the rice is taken to the factory, where the grains are taken from the husks.



The rice is "polished" to make it smooth and white and then sent to the shops to be sold for food.

This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story, turn to page 17 and try to answer the questions, to see how good your memory is.

Signs of the Zodiac

TAURUS

April 21st — May 22nd

Taurus, or The Bull, is the sign of the Zodiac which affects persons with a birthday falling between April 21st and May 22nd. Each Zodiac sign has an interesting story and this is the one about Taurus:

Princess Europa, the lovely daughter of King Agenor, was with her three brothers on a beach near the palace. They were enjoying themselves, until Jupiter set eyes on Europa and at once fell in love with her. Disguising himself as a huge bull, Jupiter snatched up Europa and before the brothers could stop him, he plunged into the sea and carried her off to the island of Crete. The three brothers, Cadmus, Phoenix and Cilix, together with the Queen Mother and others, spent almost a lifetime in search of Europa, but they never found her or saw her again.

HERE IS A SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT
ONCE UPON A TIME

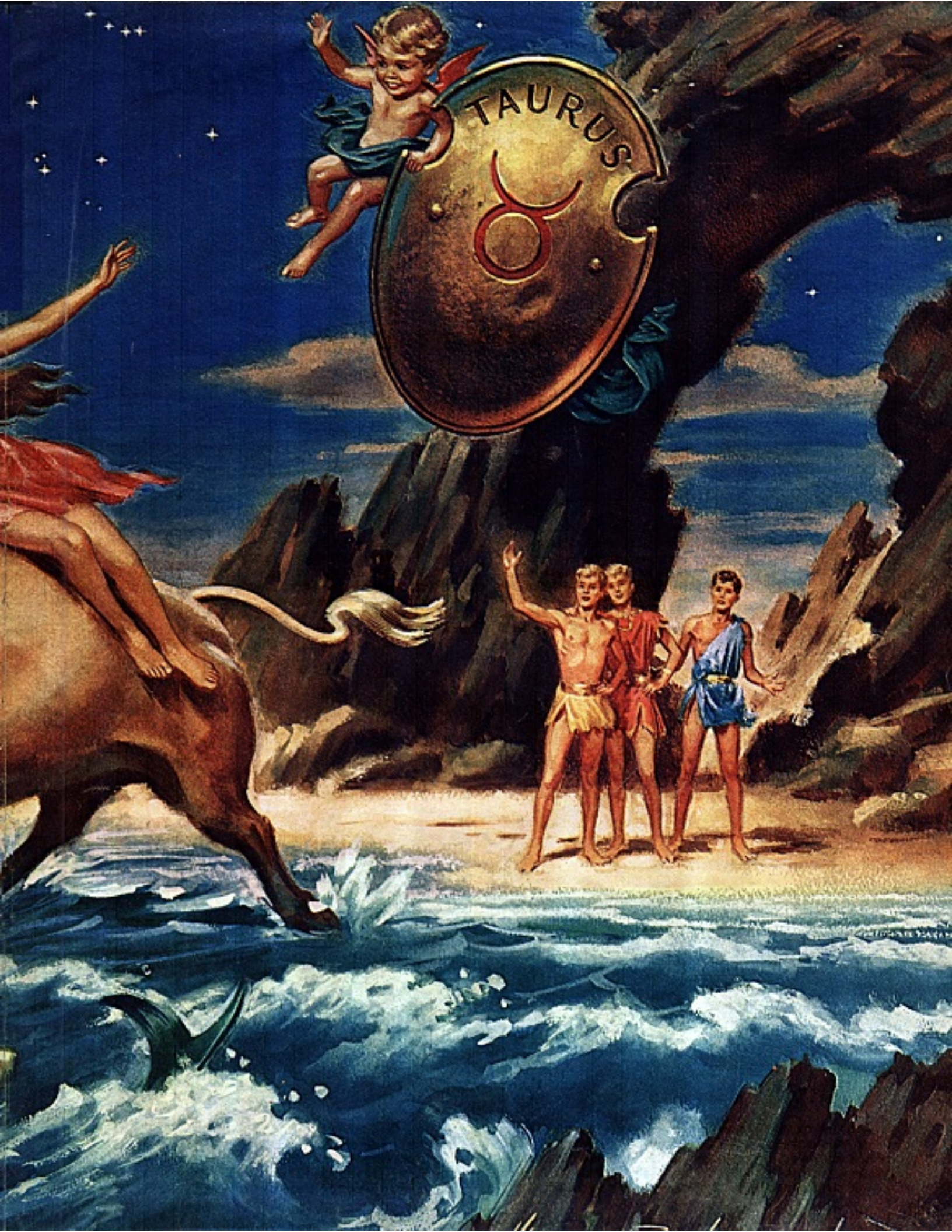
Dear Boys and Girls,

I am sorry to have to tell you that from this week onwards, the price of Once Upon A Time will be One Shilling and Sixpence. This is because it costs more now to print it in full colour. I hope that you will think it still worth the extra threepence.

Your friend,

The Editor.





The Lady and the Dragon



1. Once there was a beautiful girl named the Lady Gwenda. She was so beautiful that she had aroused the envy of a wicked witch named Kafna, who had imprisoned her in a high tower, guarded by a fierce dragon. Now there was a secret that only Gwenda knew—the dragon was not really fierce at all, only large.



2. The Lady Gwenda and the dragon spent many hours chatting to each other and the dragon confessed that he didn't like his work at all. "But what else is there for a dragon to do?" he asked. "If I don't breathe fire at every knight who comes to rescue you, I'll be the laughing stock of all the other dragons."



3. "Well, if you hate breathing fire at people so much," said Gwenda, "why don't you just explain that you don't like frightening people to the next knight who comes and suggest that he goes quietly away." "That's a very good idea," said the dragon, and that's just what he did. The knight looked most surprised.



4. "You mean you're not really fierce at all?" asked the knight, who had never come across a dragon like this before and didn't know what to make of it. "You mean you don't really like breathing fire and roaring like all the other dragons do?" "I hate it," said the unhappy dragon. "But what can I do?"



5. The knight looked thoughtful. "At home, I have a puppy," he said. "He romps all day in the garden, happy and carefree. When he is tired, he sleeps. When he is hungry, he eats. All the ladies pet him and make a great fuss of him and he is very happy." "Lucky puppy," sighed the dragon, wistfully.



6. "There's plenty of room in my garden for a fine young dragon as well," the knight went on, thoughtfully. "And how all the ladies would love you and bring you dainty tit-bits to eat." He sighed. "I've always wanted a dragon for a pet," he said. "Then have me for your pet," said the dragon, jumping for joy.



7. "Would you really come back with me?" asked the knight. "Right away," said the dragon, happily. "Good," said the knight. "But first we will collect the Lady Gwenda and take her with us. 'Don't bother to climb up all those stairs,' said the dragon. 'She can climb down my neck.' And that is what Gwenda did.



8. The knight and the Lady Gwenda rode back to the knight's castle, followed by the dragon, and there they were married. The dragon felt a little sad at first, because he was much bigger than everyone else, so the court magician made him smaller, so that it would be easier for him to run about and play with the children.



The Riddle in Rhyme

The Story of a Beautiful Painting

MANY years ago before motor-cars were invented, people used horses for work and for pleasure. There were many more horses in the land than there are now, from small riding ponies to the huge Shire horses which pulled heavy carts and ploughs.

As a result of this there was much trade in the selling and buying of horses, and at places called livery stables there were all kinds of horses for sale and for hire. You can see a busy livery stable in the painting above and the story of the picture is this:

It was the birthday of a rich merchant's wife. She loved riding horses and had set her heart on one which was for sale at the livery stables and was called Goldie.

You can imagine her excitement when she opened an envelope addressed to her in her husband's writing—and inside it was a birthday card. It had been sent with her husband's

love to wish her many happy returns of the day, but he had also written some puzzling words inside:

*My first is in fig but not in date;
My second in hole but not in hate;
My third in elf but not in gnome;
My fourth in hod but not in home;
My fifth in bitter but not in sour;
My sixth in time but not in hour;
My whole can carry you proudly away,
And make you happy on this day!
Who am I?*

The good lady was very puzzled about this. What could it all mean?

"It's a mystery, my dear," her husband told her, with a smile. "If you can tell me the answer, then I will buy you a fine birthday

present. It really isn't all that hard."

The wife puzzled over it for some time. "My first is in fig but not in date?" she said. "Could that mean the first letter of a word?"

This thought started her off on the right track, and in the end she got the answer. "G-o-l-d-i-e — GOLDIE!" she exclaimed.

"Yes, that's it."

Her husband was delighted that she had been able to solve the birthday card puzzle and together they went to the livery stables, where Goldie was brought out. What a beautiful horse it was—just the gift the clever wife had been hoping for.

Can you work out how she solved the puzzle?

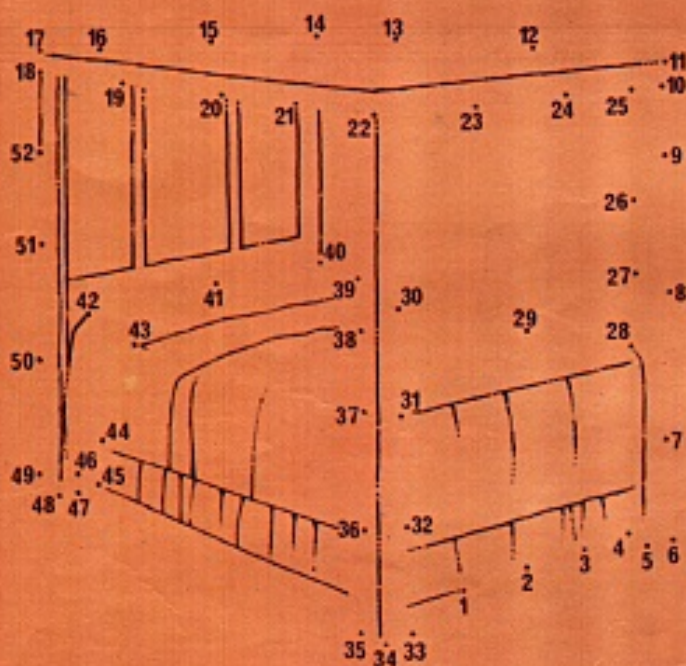
She picked out the correct letters in the words fig, hole, elf, hod, bitter, time, and these made the name GOLDIE.

Don't you think she was clever?

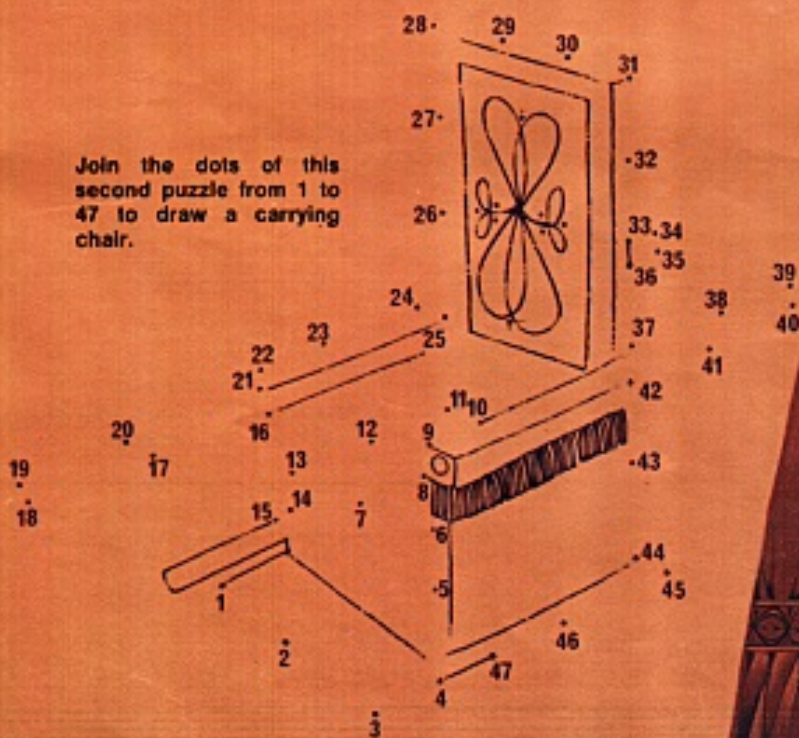
Anne Boleyn

Anne Boleyn was born in 1507 and became the second wife of King Henry the Eighth, who married her in 1533. Anne Boleyn had a daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth the First. In the year 1536, King Henry had Anne Boleyn executed at the Tower of London.

By carefully joining the dots of the puzzle picture below from 1 to 52, you will draw a bed of the time of Henry the Eighth.



Join the dots of this second puzzle from 1 to 47 to draw a carrying chair.



The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

The Haunted Castle . . . part 2

WINIFRED, the country mouse, and her boy-friend, Bertie, had come across an old castle. It looked very dark and gloomy, especially as it was evening and beginning to get dark. Mrs. Mouse, who lived nearby, said she had seen ghostly lights and a strange ghostly figure on the battlements, but Bertie didn't believe in ghosts and decided to have a quick look around the old castle and find out if there was anything inside.

Mrs. Mouse showed them where there was a boat and Bertie and Winifred got into it. Bertie rowed and they were soon splashing their way to the castle.

"If there is a ghost, the noise you're making with those oars will have scared it away by now, Bertie," said Winifred, but secretly she was rather pleased, for the splash of the oars was making her feel braver.

They landed on the bank and pulled the boat up on to the grass. "Come on, Winnie, don't fall. Here's the door," said Bertie. He pushed and the door creaked open with a great squeaking and groaning.

"Ooh, it's very dark inside," said Winifred, in a very quavery voice.

"Now don't lose your nerve, Winnie, it isn't bad once your eyes get used to it," said Bertie cheerfully. "And anyway, Mrs. Mouse gave me this lantern, so I'll light it and then we shall be able to see without any bother."

When the lantern was lit, they stood and looked around them. They were in a great hall. The ceiling was so high above them, that they couldn't see it at all in the gloom. The windows were just tiny slits in the wall, so hardly any light came in through them.

The stone walls felt very damp and chilly and Winifred gave a little shiver. "Come on, Winnie," said Bertie. "Let's move around a bit and explore. No use getting cold."

The floor was littered with bits of broken stone, but with the light from the lantern Bertie and Winifred managed to look around the old castle without falling over and hurting themselves. "It's a good job we brought this lantern," said Winifred. "It's so dark outside now we wouldn't be able to see a thing."

"Trust Bertie to think of everything, Winnie my love," beamed Bertie.

"Just think of living in a place like this," said Winifred. "However do you think they managed to do all the cleaning? It's a hard enough job keeping my little cottage clean. Just think what it would be like if you had a place this size."

"Well, I expect they had dozens and dozens of servants and scullions and cooks and people," said Bertie. "But think what it must have been like when they had parties in this great big hall. Why, they could have hundreds

of people in here and not be at all squashed."

"It's very draughty, though," shivered Winifred. "It's certainly not very warm here now."

"Well, if I were a ghost, I'd choose a warmer place than this to haunt," laughed Bertie.

"We haven't seen anything at all, have we?" said Winifred. "No ghostly lights or strange figures, or anything of the sort."

Bertie laughed. "I told you there are no such things as ghosts," he said.

Just then, they heard the strangest noise. It sounded for all the world like chains clanking and rattling.

"Eek!" squeaked Winifred, clutching Bertie. "What was that?"

"It sounded like a chain rattling, to me," said Bertie.

"It must be the ghost of some old p-p-prisoner, who was chained up and f-f-forgotten," quavered Winifred, who felt rather scared.

"That's no ghost of a prisoner, Winifred, just mark my words," said Bertie. "That sound came from up there, over our heads. And the dungeon is down here, under our feet. No, there's something very funny about this, Winnie my love, and I think it's time we went to see what it is."

Bertie shone his light all around the walls and at last he found what he was looking for—some old stone steps.

"Here's the stairs, Winnie. Come on, we'll go up and see what there is up there," said Bertie, shining his lantern on them.

Very carefully, holding tightly to Bertie's hand, Winifred climbed up the steep stone stairs. When she was about half way up she suddenly let out a squeak. The rattling chains had started to sound again over her head, but this time they seemed much nearer.

"Come on, Winifred," said Bertie. "Up we go. Not much farther to the top now and when we're there, we should be able to find out what's making that rattling noise—and I bet it won't be ghosts, just you wait and see."

Next week you will learn what was on the top of the haunted castle.

Here are the Memory Test questions from the Sign of the Zodiac story on page 10. See how many you can get right before turning back to the story:

1. Who was the father of Princess Europa?
2. Do you remember the names of her three brothers?
3. To which island did Jupiter, in the shape of a bull, carry Europa?



The Brave Little Baker



1. The brave little baker had captured the two fierce giants who were threatening the kingdom. Now the unicorn and the wild boar were left. The lad went back to the forest to search for the unicorn and before long it came charging towards him. "Come on," said the lad. "Let's see how fast you can run on your four legs."



2. The unicorn charged, but the little baker did not turn and run away. He stood there without moving, straight in the unicorn's path. Then, at the last moment, he dodged nimbly behind the tree. The unicorn could not stop and it went straight into the tree—thud! Its long horn stuck fast in the trunk, and it could not move.



3. The baker went back to the castle and told the astonished king to send men to fetch the unicorn from the forest. When all the people saw the unicorn being brought into the city, they clapped and cheered wildly. The king was so pleased that he ordered a great banquet to be prepared in the little baker's honour.



4. Next day, the little baker went off into the forest to search for the boar. At last he found it grazing in a clearing. When he saw how big the boar was, he could hardly believe his eyes. "However can I catch it?" he said to himself. "It can certainly run much faster than me and it won't get stuck in a tree."



5. Then the baker noticed a woodcutter's cottage nearby and it gave him an idea. Quick as a flash he ran out into the clearing and made for the cottage. The boar saw him and charged after him, but the lad kept on running until he reached the cottage and then he dashed inside, followed by the boar.



6. The wild boar could certainly run faster than the baker, but he was not as nimble. As the boar charged in through the cottage door, the baker jumped out through the window. Then he ran as fast as he could around the side of the cottage and slammed the door shut. The boar, too fat to get through the window, was trapped.



7. The brave little baker returned to the palace once more. Then he led the king and his men back to the clearing, where the wild boar was charging against the walls of the woodcutter's cottage, making it quiver and shake. Now that the giants, the unicorn and the boar had been captured, the king was delighted with the baker.



8. The king had promised his daughter's hand in marriage to anyone who could rid the kingdom of the three dangers and he ordered the wedding celebrations to begin at once. The king, the princess and all the people were very happy, for they were sure that a man as brave as the little baker would make a good king.



The WISE OLD OWL

Knows all the answers

The Wise Old Owl is here again to answer more of your questions.



1. How did Morris Dances get their name?

"There are a number of ideas about this, but no one actually knows. The Oxford Dictionary says the name may have come from morisco, or Moorish, a reference to the gay morisco dance, a Spanish dance brought to England in the 14th century."



2. Is it safe to drink rain-water?

"Yes, rain-water is safe to drink because all the water we drink is actually rain-water, but it is not so pleasant as water from a tap, because this water is drawn from rivers, streams and wells. It is rain-water which has sunk into the soil and collected mineral salts."



3. Where did the Parka come from?

"The parka is a jacket and hood which is warm and windproof. It is very useful for people who live where it is very cold and windy and need protection from the weather, like Eskimos. They wear parkas made from animal skins and fur, which keep them warm."



4. Is it true that an Ostrich buries its head in the sand?

"No, but when an ostrich is chased by an enemy, it may drop to the ground in a heap, so that from a distance it looks like a heap of stones or a hillock. It puts its long neck forward, so that its head is flat on the ground—but not buried in the sand."



5. Does a Raccoon wash its food before eating it?

"The raccoon loves water and when it is hunting it will often wade into rivers, streams and swamps to find fish, oysters, mussels and frogs to eat. It often dips its food into the water to moisten it, when eating, but it is unlikely that it washes food."

Mr. Mowbray